



Any reader who feels strongly about any matter is invited to use this "Soapbox" column.

Please note that opinions expressed are those of the writer alone.



Crass grass

By Isobel Grant

Walking along Twyford Avenue in East Finchley, I spotted a large expanse of plastic grass installed, presumably by the developer, in front of one of four new houses built near Fortis Green. My hackles rose as this is so bad for the environment and I wondered yet again how it is still allowed.

A recent edition of BBC Radio 4's *You and Yours* focused on the subject, highlighting the evils of artificial grass for what is supposed to be a nation of gardeners. One of those interviewed agreed that the sooner this feature disappeared from our lives, the better.

Trevor Dines, botanical specialist for charity Plantlife, has been quoted as saying that the popularity of artificial grass shows how disconnected we have become from the natural world, commenting: "Whenever I see artificial grass my heart sinks; more nature smothered by more plastic."

The root of the problem lies in social pressure for a perfect lawn. But plastic grass stops drainage, overheats, prevents birds and insects from thriving and stifles the ground. And it doesn't last for that long. It has to be vacuumed rather than mown and it can't be re-laid or reseeded so must be rolled up, lifted and sent to landfill.

Notices in the High Road proclaim the East Finchley Town Team's Sustainability event on Saturday 17 September, so perhaps this is a timely moment to reflect on the pleasures of natural material in our gardens rather than seas of green plastic.

The beauty of a good friendship in business

By Diana Cormack

A new beauty salon recently opened at 174 High Road, occupying a site which had been empty since it was vacated by Tomato Tutors. The salon's name, S&H, derives from those of the two long-term friends Suna Karakuzu and Hatice Cinpolat, who launched the business in mid-July.



Open for business: Suna Karakuzu and Hatice Cinpolat at their new salon in the High Road. Photo Mike Coles

Suna told *The Archer* that she is a college-trained beautician who had previously worked in Archway. Unfortunately illness had forced her to give up and she paid tribute to the help and support Hatice had given her through this very difficult time. It really aided her recovery when Hatice encouraged her to share in this joint venture which is coming to fruition in smart, new surroundings.

Out of the long list of beauty treatments available including waxing, eyebrow shape and tint along with various facials and laser for men and women, Suna emphasised the aesthetics section. For more details, pop in for a chat and pick up a leaflet. S&H is open from 10am to 7pm Monday to Friday, and 10am to 6pm on Saturday. Tel: 020 8442 1783.

Letters

Pinch point

Dear Editor

In response to last month's letter from Mike Segal and the current situation regarding the High Road in East Finchley, there is only ONE solution for a cycle lane to please both the cyclist and the driver.

Where is the traffic getting faster on the High Road and where does the cyclist feel vulnerable? It is where the road narrows and has a hill/bend, just after Martin School and before the junction with the North Circular.

The existing speed bump outside Martin School is a great success at slowing drivers down. However they then speed up again going downhill. Why cannot the two pedestrian islands outside the cemetery be replaced with speed bumps?

That way the driver is not swerving around the island, traffic is kept parallel, the speed bump naturally slows the traffic down, making the cyclists safer and the pedestrians able to cross the road in the village of East Finchley.

In other boroughs some roads have speed humps every 100 yards and this works very well in calming traffic, for example on the road leading from Highgate to Muswell Hill. It could be an effective and easily implemented solution in our High Road too.

Abigail Brambilla,
Address supplied.

Send your correspondence to:
news@the-archer.co.uk
or post to The Archer, PO Box
3699, London N2 2DE

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ECO-FRIENDLY EAST FINCHLEY

Recycling habit grows

By Emma Frampton

The Bin There, Donate That project has been a bit quiet over the summer but people continue to donate their unwanted items, which continue to be taken to their next homes, all of which helps to reduce waste in East Finchley.



New logo

Last month we announced the introduction of our new logo, and here it is! The logo was kindly designed by Ellen K Stone who worked with us to create something that really suits the project. I hope you like the result as much we do. Look out for it in all the local shops that are participating in our recycle and reuse schemes.

New opportunities

Ellen is quite a new designer, so this was a mutual benefit: we have gained a great logo and she has gained further skills by working on a public project. Find out more about Ellen's work at www.ellenkstone.co.uk

Bin There, Donate That offers other chances to gain experience that could be good for your CV or future career. I am the founder of the initiative but I am not multi-skilled! My tech and social media abilities are, at best, limited and I work full time.

The project would welcome someone to set up and run Facebook, Instagram and other social media accounts for us and to manage our email account, or

take a role in the other activities that keep us running. Are you or a friend in between jobs or perhaps a recent school or university graduate looking to gain new skills? Please email me on bintheredonatethat@gmail.com

Old bras for breast cancer

Aliya J, the boutique clothes shop near the Phoenix Cinema, will now take old bras and send them on to help raise money for breast cancer research. I would like to thank Celia Green, who I met at East Finchley festival, for doing the research into this.

Calling keen gardeners

Bin There is urgently looking for a local green-fingered resident who can collect donated second-hand plant pots from Amy's in the High Road. Residents have been leaving their unwanted pots there but we need one or two volunteers to collect them weekly or monthly either to use themselves, or to distribute them amongst fellow gardeners. I suggest someone who regularly does cuttings to sell, someone who has an allotment or someone who volunteers at a place where plants are grown.

Stamps

People use fewer stamps nowadays, so we may not find a collection place for them. However, charities such as Oxfam and Age UK still collect them, and a quick internet search will bring up a range of options. If, in your research, you find a local place or one that offers a pre-paid envelope, please get in touch as potentially we could still include them on our recycling list.

Sustainable High Road

Bin There, Donate That will have a stall at the Sustainable High Road Event outside Budgens between 11am - 4pm on Saturday 17 September, so come and say hello.

What and where to donate

- Lightbulbs to Amy's or EF Electrical
- Broken electrical items to EF Electrical
- Electrical wires to Everything Electrical
- Ink cartridges to UOE
- Bras to Aliya J Boutique, High Road
- Blister packs to Oakdale Pharmacy
- Unwanted spectacles to Stewart Duncan Opticians and David Hillel Opticians
- Crisp packets to Cherry Tree Café, Cherry Tree Wood
- Paper, cork, ribbon, foil, wood off-cuts, buttons, stationery, sequins, carpet samples to Amy's.



Handyperson Services Coordinator / Administrator
Part time (25 hours per week)
Salary £24,500.00 per annum pro rata

For further details and an application form visit our website:
<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/barnet/about-us/work-for-us/> or
email jenny.coomey@ageukbarnet.org.uk or
telephone 0208 432 1418

All Saints' Church, Durham Road, East Finchley Church of England

You are welcome to join us for:

Sunday mass at 10.00 a.m. and
Weekday masses as advertised on the website.

Or join our live-streamed services on our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsef>

Prayer requests are gladly accepted.

For more information,
contact the Vicar, Fr Ian Chandler, on
020 8883 9315

Email: vicar.saintsabounding@gmail.com
or check out our website:

<http://www.allsaints-eastfinchley.org.uk>